Mr. T. Marthandan Tampi, B. A., (*Trivandrum*) said that it stood to reason that the wealth of a country should be conserved within that country itself. All Government contracts on a large scale in Travancore were being given away to outsiders in preference to the sons of the soil. If no capitalists came forward from among the natives, contracts, he represented, could at least be given in shares to a number of enterprising men who had vested interests in the State. Government declared that they would not prefer one class or section to another, but he claimed that it was necessary to give some protection to the native against the commercial inroads of the outsider. Protection was accepted as a guiding principle in several countries including America, and he saw no reason why the statesmen of this country should not follow that example. As it was, it was painful to note that this State was open to the exploitation of any outsider for the mere asking and the liberality shown by Government to aliens knew no bounds. He prayed that as far as possible all contracts, especially in the Public Works Department, might hereafter be given only to the natives of the land.

Reply.—No hard and fast rule can be laid down. Each case will be dealt with on its own merits. All contracts are now open to free competition, but if for particular works particular persons are chosen on account of low tender or other considerations, it cannot be helped. No preference will, however, be given to one over another, except on the score of ability to carry out works.

192. Passing of rules to regulate the conduct of chitties.

Mr. G. Idichandy, B. A., Bar-at-Law (*Mavelikara*) stated that chitty transactions and consequent litigation were on the increase in Travancore and unless some rules were passed for regulating the conduct of chitties, subscribers were sure to come to grief owing to the want of solvency and business capacity of the foremen with whom they might come in contact. It would be desirable, he said, to make it penal for any foreman to start a chitty transaction in which his aggregate liability was greater than the market value of his landed property. It should further be made compulsory for him to execute a security bond to the subscribers for the money he drew in the same manner as the subscribers were obliged to do to him at present. The foreman should also be bound to show to the subscribers the security

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bond taken from the person who drew money at the previous chitty before the next chitty was drawn. Some rules on these lines were, the member thought, necessary to safeguard the interests of subscribers.

Reply.—It is open to persons joining chitties to form themselves into joint-stock companies. There are provisions already in the Penal Code for punishing wager transactions. Courts of justice may be left to safeguard other equitable rights. If a number of persons go to a particular man and choose to bind themselves by his transactions, it is open to them to insist on his satisfying them of his solvency and capacity for business. It is purely a private transaction which Government cannot and need not regulate. Each association or body of persons may be left to frame their own rules in this matter.

193. Abolition of cattle-pound fees and double fees for cattle straying along channel banks.

Mr. P. Nellayandar Pillai (*Agastisvaram*) represented that at present the fees levied on cattle-pounds were exorbitant and it would be desirable to abolish them altogether. Further, when stray cattle were found on the banks of channels, the practice was to realize double fees and it would be better to dispense with these also.

Reply.—Fees as prescribed in section 10 of the Cattle Trespass Regulation (I of 1056) are now levied. Double fees are realised under the Regulation for animals straying in reserved forests only and not those straying on the banks of channels. The question of abolishing cattle pounds cannot be thought of, as it is a necessary institution for fostering agriculture; and it is plain that if they are to be maintained, fees will also have to be levied from the owners of cattle brought to the pounds.

194. Planting of avenue trees.

Mr. S. Swamy Iyengar of Trivandrum (*Nominated*) said that avenue trees used to be planted in former times by both Government and the people, but latterly such wayside facilities for travellers had come to be neglected. Avenue trees were being planted systematically in British India also and he could not see why the charitable and sympathetic Government of Travancore should not pay more attention to this matter. He therefore suggested that an expert might be appointed for planting fruit trees on the sides of public roads.

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